

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3–5, 7, 8, 13–18 were rejected as anticipated by Blom. Claim 2 is not listed in the rejection but is discussed in the statement in support of the rejection. It is presumed that claim 2 should have been listed in the rejection.

1. The Blom patent discloses only constant power during normal operation. Constant current during run-up is not disclosed.

2. MPEP §2131 loudly proclaims in boldface, uppercase letters “**TO ANTICIPATE A CLAIM, THE REFERENCE MUST TEACH EVERY ELEMENT OF THE CLAIM.**” It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is not following this directive.

3. It is not proper to use claims (column 5 of the Blom patent) for rejecting claims; *In re Benno*, 226 USPQ 683 (Fed. Cir. 1985) [selection enclosed].

4. The abstract does not disclose controlling current through the lamp during starting.

Claims 1, 6, 10, 12, and 15 were rejected as anticipated by Lev et al.

1. The term “constant current” does not appear in the text of the Lev et al. patent. How can there be anticipation?

2. The term “constant power” does not appear in the text of the Lev et al. patent. How can there be anticipation?

3. The Examiner’s reference to column 1, lines 13+, of the Lev et al. patent makes no sense. The selection starts in the middle of the paragraph labeled “Field of the Invention. The lines are reproduce below.

specifically relates to a power controller, using digital implementation with such stand-alone features as automatic shut down; dead time control, close to inductive side driving; and filament connections.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Power controllers are well known and normally employ analog techniques. Digital techniques are normally avoided where smooth control is desired, for example, in controlling the dimming gas discharge lamps such as fluorescent lamps in an electronic ballast.

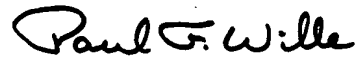
The present invention provides a novel digital implementation for power control circuits, particularly for the control of fluorescent lamp dimming.

4. The signals HSD and LSD (FIG. 19) are discussed in column 16. There is no disclosure of constant power during normal operation or constant current during start-up.

The allowance in substance of claims 9 and 11 is noted with appreciation.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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